

PAPER 1 Reading

PAPER 2 Writing

Part 1

PAPER 3 Use of English

Part 2

PAPER 4 Listening

PAPER 5 Speaking

You **must** answer this question. Write your answer in **180–220** words in an appropriate style.

- 1 The Northgate Town Planning Department has announced that it intends to build houses on a piece of open land called Northgate Common.

You have been asked by the local residents' committee to write an article for the local newspaper in response to the announcement, explaining why you are opposed to the plan. Read the announcement below, on which you have made notes, and write the article.

NORTHGATE COMMON

*Consultation?
When?*

*Only 3 months
away: should have
been told earlier!*

*Cheap housing
for local
people?*

After consultation with local residents, the Northgate Town Planning Department hereby announces that planning permission has been granted for a housing project on the area of unused land known as Northgate Common. Work is scheduled to begin in September of this year.

*Not unused:
parkland for
sports, children
playing, walks, etc.*

12 semi-detached private residences will cover 62% of the common, and the remaining 38% will be developed into private gardens for the use of the residents.

*Why not
public
gardens?*

Now write your **article**.

Essential tips

- ▶ When you write an article, think carefully about the appropriate register and tone for the question you are answering. What publication is the article for? Who is going to read your article?
- ▶ In your article, you must describe 'the situation'. What information should you give? Is it necessary to mention who 'you' are in this article?
- ▶ Think carefully about why you are writing the article. What effect do you want it to have on readers? What do you hope to achieve by writing it? Do you want to convince readers about anything? Think about the language you will need to achieve this goal.
- ▶ The handwritten comments next to the announcement provide you with information, but you need to expand them into sentences. For example, the first comment is 'Consultation? When?' How could you express the idea conveyed by these words in a full sentence?

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Essential tips

- ▶ In Part 2 you must choose one task. However, you should be familiar with all the possible types of text you might need to write.
- ▶ Read each question carefully. Before you choose a question, ask yourself if you know enough vocabulary on the subject and can employ it in the required register and text type.
- ▶ In Part 2 questions you have more freedom to use your imagination and come up with information that is not in the input material.

Question 2

- ▶ Although the word is not mentioned in the question, you are being asked to write an article expressing your opinions.
- ▶ Think about the style that would be appropriate: formal, semi-formal or informal?
- ▶ The question makes it clear that you should concentrate on two aspects of travel: (a) why it is important and (b) how you would benefit. This suggests that the two main sections of your article should be about these aspects.
- ▶ Plan carefully what to say in each part of your answer to avoid repeating yourself, and to ensure you include as many relevant points as possible.
- ▶ You also need an introduction and a conclusion. What could you say here?
- ▶ Remember that you should use your imagination – when you explain what you would like to do on a journey, for instance.
- ▶ Make sure you have enough time to check your answer.

Write an answer to **one** of the questions **2–5** in this part. Write your answer in **220–260** words in an appropriate style.

- 2 You see the following announcement in a travel magazine and decide to enter the competition:

FREE TRAVEL IN EUROPE!

**Are you under the age of 25?
Are you interested in travelling around Europe?**

Write to us explaining why travelling is good for young people, and indicate how you yourself would expect to benefit from a trip around Europe.

The writer of the best entry will win a free EuropeRail monthly travel pass.

**Send your entry to:
EuropeRail, P.O. Box 242, London**

Write your **competition entry**.

- 3 You have seen the following announcement in an international magazine:

Modern technology: saving our time or wasting our money?

Does modern technology really make our lives easier, or are the machines and devices we buy a waste of money? We want to know what you think.

Write an article, giving at least two examples of useful machines or devices and two examples of machines or devices that we could easily do without.

Write your **article**.

Essential tips

Question 4

- ▶ In order to answer this question, you must be familiar with the format of a report. You need to write clear paragraphs and use headings. You may also want to use other features such as bullet points or numbered lists.
- ▶ Remember that a report must have a clear introduction and conclusion as well. In your introduction, state what the report is about and who it is for. In your conclusion, summarise the information contained in your report. See the Writing bank on page 216.
- ▶ You need to include information about the culture and history of your region. At the same time, your task is to produce a good piece of writing, so as long as the points you make sound reasonable, they do not all have to be factually correct. For instance, if you want to say that young people in your region are interested in the history of this part of the country, you could invent a survey that shows 65% of young people say they are 'very interested' in history. It doesn't matter if this survey was never actually carried out.

- ▶ The question asks you to give your opinion about how the situation may change in the future. Therefore, you can use the first person to say what you think (e.g. 'I think', 'I believe'), but keep the formal style that is appropriate for a report.

Question 5

- ▶ In this question, you may be asked to write an essay, a review, an article or a report. It is therefore important to practise writing these text types in relation to your chosen set book.

- 4 Read the following extract from a letter that you received from an international youth organisation:

We are conducting a survey on the importance of regional culture to young people around the world. Please write us a report for this survey, describing how young people in your region feel about the history and culture of that region, and how you think this may change in the future.

Write your **report**.

- 5 Answer **one** of the following two questions based on your reading of **one** of the set books.

Either

- 5(a) A well-known literary magazine has invited readers to send in reviews of a book they have read recently. You have decided to write a review of the set book, outlining the plot and saying whether or not you would recommend the book to other readers and why.

Write your **review**.

Or

- 5(b) Your teacher has asked you to write an essay on the main characters in your set book, examining their personality and saying whether or not their actions are justified in the story.

Write your **essay**.

- ▶ The tasks will focus on character study, the development of the plot and the main themes within the story. As you read the set book, make notes on characters' personalities. Practise making comparisons between different characters and also think about why you like or dislike them. You must be able to outline the plot and talk about themes such as greed, ambition, love, hate, etc.

- ▶ You may be asked to compare the set book with a film that is based on it, especially if the latter is well known, so check whether or not there is a film based on the book you are reading, and try to ensure that you see it before the exam.

- ▶ For question 5(a), your review should outline the plot. Think carefully about what you like and dislike about the book. Even if you like it very much, it might be useful to mention one weak point; this will make your review sound more convincing and realistic. If you recommend it to other readers, you might like to mention what kind of reader you think would enjoy it, e.g. a particular age group, lovers of thrillers, romantic novels, etc.

- ▶ For question 5(b), you need to have a good understanding of the main characters. Think about the decisions they make in the story and whether they are the right ones, in your opinion. Remember to support what you say with examples from the book.